

## 7 Traffic Circulation

### 7.1 Existing Situation

Two important traffic routes traverse the planning area. MD 146 (Jarrettsville Pike) is a two-lane, north-south route and MD 145 (Paper Mill Road/Sweet Air Road) is a two-lane, east-west route. The intersection where Jarrettsville Pike, Paper Mill Road and Sweet Air Road meet is known as Four Corners. It is the only signalized intersection in the planning area.

Jarrettsville Pike, Paper Mill Road, and Sweet Air Road handle traffic which is both regional and local in nature. These roads are under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Administration (SHA). The 1993 Federal Highway Classification map for Baltimore County prepared by the SHIA classifies Jarrettsville Pike and Paper Mill Road as rural minor arterials. Sweet Air Road is classified as a rural major collector.

All other roads in the planning area provide primarily local service and are under the jurisdiction of Baltimore County. Blenheim Road and Stansbury Mill Road (which is located just outside the planning area) provide mostly local service by feeding traffic to major roads. Hillendale Heights Road provides access to the Jacksonville Elementary School and the Overshot residential subdivision. The remaining roads provide for local access and are designed as residential streets.

Table 5 shows 1996 average daily traffic volumes for the major roads in the planning area and projected volumes for 2015. Jarrettsville Pike handles the largest traffic volumes. The second most traveled road is Paper Mill Road. The next most heavily traveled road is Sweet Air Road. All of these roads will experience traffic volume increases in the future.

Table 5: Average Daily Traffic Volumes and Projections.

| Location   | 1996   | 2015   |
|--|--------|--------|
| Jarrettsville Pike south of Paper Mill Road/Sweet Air Road | 15,050 | 20,000 |
| Jarrettsville Pike north of Paper Mill Road/Sweet Air Road | 13,950 | 18,000 |
| Paper Mill Road west of Jarrettsville Pike                 | 9,275  | 14,000 |
| Sweet Air Road east of Jarrettsville Pike                  | 5,850  | 12,000 |

Source: State Highway Administration

Sidewalks in the planning area are limited to a few locations along the major roads. Sidewalks have been installed along the road frontage of the following properties: Jacksonville Elementary School, Manor Shopping Center, Sparks Bank, Jacksonville Pharmacy, Amoco Station, Blockbuster Video, and the Exxon Station. Pedestrian access among the various uses in the commercial core is hampered by broken sidewalk connections.

### 7.2 Recommendations

The following improvements are recommended in order to provide a safe circulation system in the future:

1. **Four Corners Intersection.** Traffic flow at this intersection should be improved by providing right-turn lanes on northbound Jarrettsville Pike, eastbound Paper Mill Road, and westbound Sweet Air Road. The right-turn lane on Jarrettsville Pike should extend to the Manor Shopping Center entrance. Cooperation of the SHA will be needed to implement these improvements. In the interim it is recommended that the SHA initiate a signal phasing study for the intersection to help ease congestion.
2. **Blenheim Road Bridge.** Widen the bridge over Overshot Run to two lanes.
3. **Stansbury Mill Road and Jarrettsville Pike Intersection.** Although this intersection lies just outside the planning area, it is functionally very important to the area. The sharp angle of this intersection is a problem. Stansbury Mill Road should be realigned so that it intersects with Jarrettsville Pike at a right angle. This intersection should be studied to determine if a traffic light is warranted, especially during the morning peak period. The SHA should be requested to perform a signal warrant study for the intersection.
4. **Pedestrian Travel.** To enhance the Rural Commercial Center and to provide for pedestrian accessibility and safety, sidewalks should be provided along both sides of Jarrettsville Pike, Paper Mill Road, and Sweet Air Road where they currently do not exist. An organized effort to encourage the owners of developed commercial properties and/or the SHA to install sidewalks should be initiated. In the case of undeveloped properties and properties where an existing building or use is enlarged, sidewalks should be constructed concurrent with the development or improvement of the individual properties. Sidewalks on Paper Mill Road should extend beyond the Rural Commercial Center boundary to Robcaste Road. The installation of new sidewalks along state roads should be coordinated with the SHA. The installation of new sidewalks should be submitted by Baltimore County as a candidate for the Maryland Department of Transportation's Retrofit Sidewalk Program. Also, the SHA should paint crosswalks at the Four Corners intersection.

These improvements are indicated on Map 9 in Appendix E.